

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 11

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Ray Begaye

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE PARKS DIVISION OF THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO DESIGNATE THE SHIP ROCK
PINNACLE AS A STATE MONUMENT.

WHEREAS, the Ship Rock pinnacle is a significant geologic
feature within the Navajo Nation and is located in San Juan
county approximately thirteen miles from the town of Shiprock;
and

WHEREAS, the Ship Rock pinnacle is an outstanding example
of an exposed volcanic neck, rising one thousand four hundred
feet above the surrounding four-corners New Mexico plain, that
can be seen for a hundred miles and that is accompanied by
radiating dikes rising one hundred fifty feet in height; and

WHEREAS, the name Shiprock apparently came into use in the
1870s, as indicated by United States geological survey maps,

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1 because Anglo-Americans in the area noticed the similarity
2 between the Ship Rock pinnacle and the nineteenth-century
3 clipper sailing ships of the time; and

4 WHEREAS, the Navajo word for the Ship Rock pinnacle is
5 "tse bit'ta'i", meaning "rock with wings"; and

6 WHEREAS, the Ship Rock pinnacle is of great religious and
7 historical significance to the Navajo Nation and has a number
8 of Navajo myths and ceremonies associated with it; and

9 WHEREAS, in May 1975 the Ship Rock pinnacle was designated
10 by the United States national park service as a national
11 natural landmark; and

12 WHEREAS, the planning commission of the Shiprock chapter
13 of the Navajo Nation has duly recommended that the Ship Rock
14 pinnacle be designated as an official park of the state of New
15 Mexico and the Navajo Nation; and

16 WHEREAS, on November 4, 2007, the Shiprock chapter of the
17 Navajo Nation unanimously adopted a resolution requesting
18 Governor Bill Richardson to designate the Ship Rock pinnacle as
19 a New Mexico state park;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state parks division of the
22 energy, minerals and natural resources department be requested
23 to conduct a feasibility study regarding the designation of the
24 Ship Rock pinnacle as a state monument; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division of

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1 the energy, minerals and natural resources department present
2 its feasibility study and its recommendations regarding the
3 designation of the Ship Rock pinnacle as a state monument to
4 the appropriate interim legislative committee no later than
5 October 1, 2008; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of energy, minerals
8 and natural resources, the director of the state parks
9 division, the president of the Navajo Nation, the speaker of
10 the Navajo Nation council and the president of the Shiprock
11 chapter of the Navajo Nation.